Sketch of the Life of

GERSHOM CLARK

of

Weathersfield, Vermont

1753 - 1815

by

Gertrude Bernadette Wilgus

1941

Foreword

This sketch of the life of Deacon Gershom Clark represents an effort to place in a tangible form the days and works of one of the early settlers of Weathersfield, Vermont. His name is practically unknown to the town's present generation because his children, with one exception, left the State and gave themselves to the development of the then West, even as their father had given himself to the development of Weathersfield.

Traditions in the town and family, where used, have been given as such, in the hope that they will serve as aids to others who may change them into verified references.

Readers of the sketch are invited to send corrections of such mistakes as they may find, with references, to the compiler who will then have them, with the sender's name, inserted in the manuscript.

Acknowledgment is gladly made of the help given by Mrs. Victoria Salmond, Town Clerk of Weathersfield, especially for her unfailing thoughtfulness in providing a comfortable room for working on the town books; also to Mrs. Charles D. W. Thrasher, our local genealogist, whose keen sense of humor made the study of those early days a pleasure; and finally to William J. Wilgus, great-great-grandson of Deacon Gershom Clark, without whose advice and encouragement this sketch would never have been written.

A Sketch of the Life

of

Gershom Clark.

Gershom Clark was not one of the first settlers of Weathersfield, Vermont. The Allens, Grouts, Spoffords, Tuttles and Uphams, with others, came to the town in 1767/8.* They were the first. Gershom came fourteen years later but from that date, 1781, to his death in 1815, he was a loyal and devoted townsman.

Gershom was a Connecticut man, one of the Lebanon Clarks. The first settlement in that large township was situated in the center of the Grant and was named the "First Society" or "Lebanon Street." There in 1698 the first Town Meeting was held with "William Clark chosen Town Clerk." He was a son of Lieutenant William Clark of Northampton, Massachusetts** and a great-grandfather of our Gershom. This William Clark was a leader in the town and in the State. He was Town Clerk from 1698 to 1703; Deputy to the General Assembly at Hartford in 1705; Captain of Lebanon's First Company in 1708; Representative to the General Assembly at Hartford from 1708 to 1713; again Town Clerk from 1704 to 1723; again Representative to the General Assembly at Hartford from 1717 to 1719;*** and Judge of the Probate Court of Windham County in 1723.****

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* Early History of Weathersfield, Vermont, by E. W. Butterfield.
** Northampton, Massachusetts Town Records.
*** History of New London County, Conn. by D. H. Hurd.
**** Probate Records of Windham County, (at Willimantic, Conn.)

In 1715 a second village was established in the town; it was called the Second Society or North Parish and was situated ten miles North of "Lebanon Street." This whole section was bought by William Clark and Joshua Dewey and was described in the deed "as the Clark and Dewey Purchase lying in the wilderness near the Hop River." There in 1715 Captain William Clark settled his two sons, Joseph and Binoni, both young men, one 24 years old and the other 21. This Binoni Clark was a grandfather of our Gershom.*

The third settlement in the town was called Goshen Parish. So far no records of Gershom Clark's family have been found in Goshen. They all lived in the North Parish and are easily traced in its church and town books.

Gershom Clark was born April 29th, 1753, the son of Binoni, Jr. and Ruth (Carpenter) Clark of Lebanon North Parish.** Very little is known of his father, Binoni Clark, Jr. Captain William Clark, his great-grandfather, and Binoni Clark, Sr., his grandfather, stand forth from the Lebanon records with clearness and distinction. Between them and Gershom floats the shadowy figure of his father, Binoni, Jr., of whom the records tell us he was born in 1730, married in 1750, and died in 1760. That is all.

Binoni, Jr. left six small children ranging in age from nine years to a baby of a few months. These children were supported by their grandfather, Binoni Clark, who left to them in his will, probated February 26th, 1769, "sixty-nine acres of land on the eastern side of the Hartford road and 1/2 an acre of orchard on the western side of the Hartford road, which land is to be equally divided between the heirs of my son Binoni Clark, deceased, viz. Thomas Clark,

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* Lebanon, Conn. Town Records, (Lebanon Town Clerk's office.)
** Lebanon, Conn. Town Records.

Gershom Clark, Jerome Clark, Jesse Clark, Ruth Clark and Binoni Clark.* In 1772 the mother of these children "the widow, Ruth Clark, of Lebanon" married Samuel Sprague of Coventry.** Her youngest son, Binoni, aged 12, went with her to her new home. A few years later war broke out and Gershom, Jerome and Jesse joined the Army.

Gershom enlisted May 11th, 1775 in the Third Connecticut Regiment. James Clark was his Captain and Israel Putnam his Colonel.*** Five weeks later he lay wounded on Bunker Hill; "a bullet had gone right through his body." Fortunately his brother Jerome was near, (they were members of the same Volunteer Co.) and was detailed to carry the wounded soldier to the military hospital at Cambridge.****

The two brothers spent the next three months in the hospital, one as a very sick patient and the other as a devoted but sadly inexperienced nurse. Gershom was then 22 years old and Jerome just 20. In September the invalid was considered sufficiently recovered to undertake the journey home to Lebanon. The records give us no account of that hazardous trip. His sister Ruth was at home and also in the North Parish lived Levina Wright, who was to become his wife. She tells us that "Gershom was brought home to Lebanon in the Fall of 1775 and remained there until he was able to walk, when he returned to the Army and served the full term for which he enlisted."***** That term was for six months: he did not reenlist; his fighting days were over. In fact his

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* Probate Records of Windham County, (at Willimatic, Conn.)
** Coventry Vital Statistics by Dimick.
*** Connecticut Men in the Revolution, p. 56.
**** U. S. National Archives, Pension Bureau, Washington, D. C.
***** U. S. National Archives, Pension Bureau, Washington, D. C.

days of hard labor were over for Gershom never recovered from the wound he received at Bunker Hill.

With his discharge papers in good order he hastened back to Lebanon, to the farm and to Levina. They had been friends for years and were admirably suited to each other. The records prove that he was patriotic, ambitious and absolutely trustworthy. They also prove that she was industrious, kindly and superbly courageous. They were married on May 2nd, 1776,* and for five years lived on the farm in Lebanon North Parish.

It was a farming community, well settled and prosperous. But for the war life was pleasant on these rolling hills lying east of Hartford. Captain William's descendants in the town were numerous and influential. Gershom's cousins and uncles farmed much of the land and filled many of the town offices. Levina was the daughter of Jabez and Martha (Washburn) Wright and sixth in line from Francis Cooke of the Mayflower.** Jabez Wright was one of the largest land owners in Lebanon, and nearby lived the Guilds, Hartshorns, Washburns, Wrights, Carpenters, Roots, Strongs, Allens, Buckinghams, and Downers, all related to Levina or to Gershom. So it is with surprise we read that in the early spring of 1781 Gershom said good-bye to Levina and the children, (two girls and a boy) and went North up the valley of the Connecticut River to Claremont, N. H. He was not the first Clark from Lebanon to follow the river north. Nine years earlier his Uncle Eleazar Clark sold his Lebanon farm to the Rev. Mr. Brockway of the North Parish*** and with his wife, Esther (Gibbs) Clark, and their ten children, went up the river and started a new home in the township

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*U. S. National Archives, Pension Bureau, Washington, D. C.
** Mayflower Society Records.
*** Lebanon, Conn. Town Records.

of Claremont.

Mr. George Baxter Upham, a recognized authority on the early history of Claremont, says "the Eleazar Clark home was probably on the King's Highway north of the Lottery Bridge" which spans the Sugar River a short quarter of a mile south of the present Cupola farm house. All the eastern section of this lovely valley looks west to Ascutney Mountain and the town of Weathersfield.

Here Gershom came in mid-May of 1781 and was welcomed by his uncle and aunt, and by all his cousins of whom four were soldiers of the Revolution. Those four were Eleazar, Jr., Joseph, Benjamin and Dan. Eleazar, Jr. and Joseph enlisted in Claremont in Captain Oliver Ashley's company. Benjamin enlisted in Claremont in Captain Wetherbee's company,* and Dan went down to Charlestown and there joined Captain Abel Ward's company. The records do not tell us why Dan went to a neighboring town to enlist. Perhaps parental opposition had something to do with it for Esther Clark had already given three of her sons to the army and may have thought that this sixteen year old boy was better off at home. From the Claremont records we learn that Eleazar Clark senior was on the Committee of Safety in 1775 and is there recorded as Ensign Eleazar Clark.

Those May days were indeed busy for the Clarks of Claremont. More land to be cleared, more plowing, harrowing and seeding, perhaps more chatting, for the uncle and aunt wanted all the news of the relatives back at home, and the soldiers had tales of their experiences to exchange, experiences that only another soldier could understand. Also for Gershom there was the future. Would he settle up there where life was still in its pioneer stage or would he return to Lebanon with its

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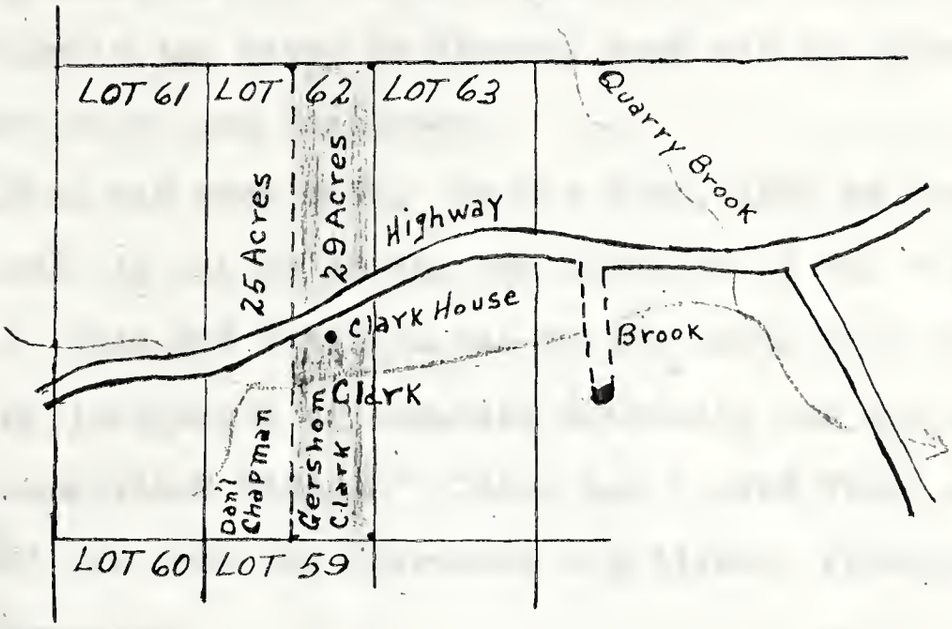
* New Hampshire State Papers, Vol. 14, (series Rev. Rolls Vol. 1, p. 324)

Map and Description

Weathersfield Vermont

Division II

1781



"I, Amos Boynton, of Weathersfield, in the State of Vermont for the sum of 50 pounds lawful money....do give...grant...unto Gershom Clark, of Lebanon, Conn. ...one certain tract of land in sd. Weathersfield containing 29 acres on Lot 62 in the second Division....Bounded West on Daniel Chapman's land, South on Joseph Wooding's land, East on Joseph Marsh's land, all sd. lot No. 62 except 25 acres that belong to Daniel Chapman on the west side of sd. lot.

Witnesses

Timothy Grannis
Elihu Stevens
State of New Hampshire
Claremont, May 23, 1781.

Signed 23 day of May in the year of our Lord 1781,
Amos Boynton

Recd. for Record Feb. 15, 1782 and recorded March 6, 1782.
Hilkiah Grout,
Town Clerk.

Weathersfield, Vermont, Land Records Vol. 1, p. 77.

comforts and security - and if up there, where?

Farm land was good all along the Connecticut River and on the New Hampshire side it was cleared, but a farm for him near his uncle's home was out of the question. Land on the eastern side of the valley was owned by the Ashleys, Sumners, Tylers, Stevens and others;* but across the river in Vermont land was for sale, good land with sweet water and big trees.

His decision was soon made. On May 23rd, 1781 he became the owner of 29 acres in Lot 62 in the 2nd Division of the town of Weathersfield. This 2nd Division was in the north-east part of the town, lying just south of Ascutney Mountain, and ran east almost to the Connecticut River.** There was a good ferry nearby so Gershom was not far from his Claremont relatives. From now on he was to be a Vermonter.

During the next five years the summers were spent in Weathersfield and the winters with his family in Lebanon. The short summer months went all too quickly. Those 29 acres needed clearing and the stock required care. The records tell us that "His earmark was a crop off the right ear for cattle, sheep and hogs";*** but they do not tell us how this stock was cared for during the long winter months when Gershom was away in Lebanon.

From tradition in the town we learn that he built a long cabin on his land but there are conflicting stories as to its exact location. Some placed it on the western edge of Lot 62 where a cellar hole still may be seen (1940), but Gershom Clark's original 29 acre purchase was the eastern section of that lot and it seems

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* Mrs. Roy Hunter, West Claremont, N.H.
** Early map of Weathersfield, Vt. by E. W. Butterfield.
*** Weathersfield Town Records, Vol. 1.

inconceivable that he would have built away from his own land. In his History of Weathersfield Mr. Butterfield places a house (numbered 28 on his map) at the western edge of this lot but says that the name of the original owner is unknown. The log cabin was probably built on his own land and on the north side of the road near where a few old apple trees still feebly exist. Later he built a new house on the south side of the same road and nearly opposite the site of the old cabin. No cellar hole is to be found on the north side of the road near the apple trees but a log cabin was a temporary abode and probably had no cellar.

Some interesting papers on file at the U. S. National Archives in Washington give an interesting picture of Gershom's courage and ambition. In them he is described as "an invalid who never recovered from his wound." How then did he accomplish so much work? For besides the farm labor and house construction he took an active part in town affairs.

At a town meeting held at Weathersfield on May 21st, 1782, "Gershom Clark was appointed Vendue Master." (Town officer empowered to sell land for unpaid taxes.) Those present also voted "to send for Mr. Haskell to come and preach in this town and chose Captain Tolles, Esquire Stoughton and Gershom Clark to send for Mr. Haskell."*

At the 1784 town meeting "They voted and chose Gershom Clark on the first record as Town Clerk,"** a position which he held until 1791. At this meeting he was appointed Surveyor of Highways and placed on a committee "to select a suitable place for a house of worship."***

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* Weathersfield, Vt. Town Records, Vol. 1.
** Ibid
*** Ibid

With farm work and town affairs he was kept busy but each winter he returned to his family in Lebanon, and each winter he found a brother or sister gone from the home town. The brother, Jerome, who cared for him after the battle of Bunker Hill, married Anna Pinneo and left Lebanon for Cherry Valley, N.Y.* Jesse, also a soldier of the Revolution, settled in Lee, Mass. and there married Sarah Foote, later moving to Groton, N.Y.** Binoni, the youngest brother, lived in Coventry, Conn. near his mother, Mrs. Sprague.*** Thomas and Ruth disappear from the records after 1783. In Lebanon there remained Levina and the six children. The winter of 1786 was the last one that the family spent there. Early the next spring they went north to the new home. That first summer in Weathersfield was a busy but a strange one for Levina. Down home in the North Parish the meadows had pushed back the forests and from her dooryard she could see the homes of many of her relatives and friends, but here on the lower slopes of Mt. Ascutney the forest crept up to her door and the clearings were small and hidden in the woods. However, with six children to love and care for there was not much time for regrets.

The oldest daughter, Levina, was nine when they came to Vermont, Patty, the second girl, was seven, the two boys, Harvey and Jesse, were six and four, Azubah was two, and Gershom, Jr. was a baby a few months old.

The new home was pleasant and comfortable, a square story-and-a-half New England cottage with hand hewn beams and a large central chimney. It faced north on Mt. Ascutney. The house still stands (1940) and has five large maples across the front. At the

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* Lebanon, Conn. Town Records and National Archives, Pension Bureau, Wash. D. C. and Groton, N. Y. Records.

** Ibid

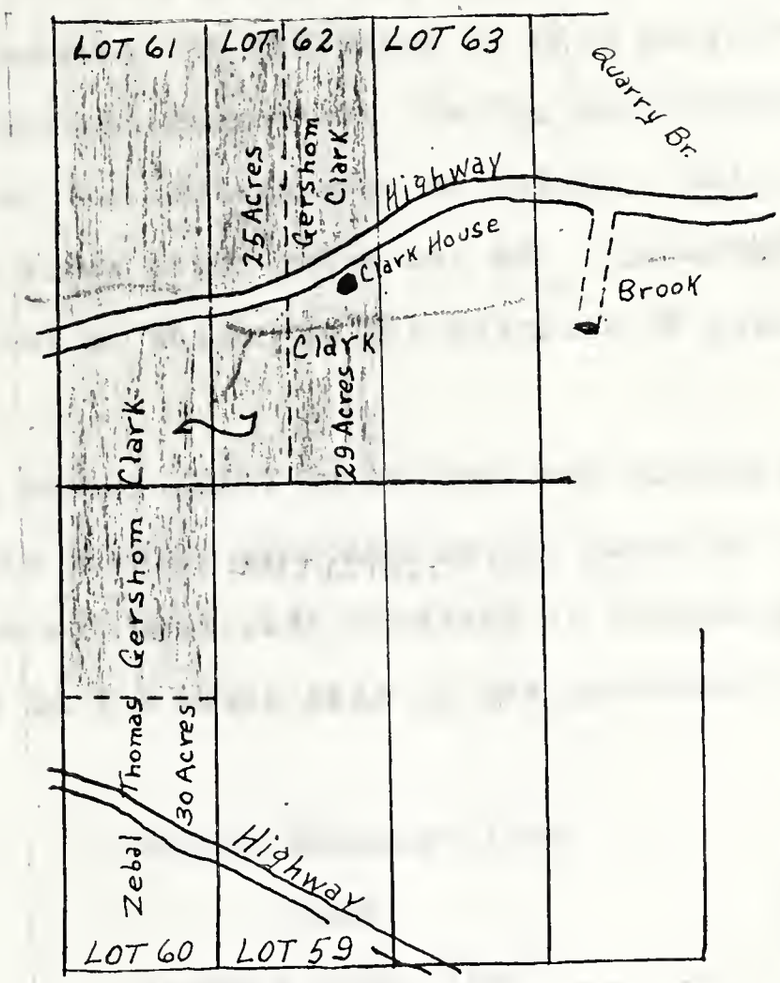
*** [illegible]

Map and Description

Weathersfield Vermont

Division II

1791



I Isaac Allen of Weathersfield...Vermont...for 170 pounds lawful money to me paid by Gershom Clark of the same Town...do give...unto ye sd. Gershom Clark...one certain piece of land lying in Weathersfield, viz the whole of Lot No. 60 in ye Second Division except 30 acres taken off at the South end and sold to Zebal Thomas, also Lot No. 61 in the Second Division and 25 acres on ye west side of Lot No. 62, all the above Lots are in the Second Division of Lots in ye sd. Town.

Signed this 18th day of August, 1791.

Isaac Allen.

Witnesses:
Stewart Boynton
Richard Cary.

Weathersfield, Vt. Town Records, Vol. 2, p. 439.

back a meadow drifts off to the south and east. Clark Brook rises in a ravine to the west of the house and flows east all through this lovely meadow.

The house is now owned by Mr. Harold B. Carruth of Weathersfield, who is repairing and restoring it with gracious consideration of its New England character. On Mr. Butterfield's map this house is placed on the eastern side of Lot 63. This is a slight error as Gershom Clark never owned Lot 63. The house stands on the eastern side of Lot 62 which was the original 29 acres bought by Gershom in 1781.

The first winter spent in Vermont was saddened by the death of Gershom's uncle Eleazar who died in the month of January and was buried in the old west side cemetery at Claremont. A small blue slate stone on the south side of the graveyard bears this inscription:

Ensign Eleazar Clark

Died

January 29th, 1787

in the 63rd year of

his age.

A ~~good~~ kind husband a tender parent (~~obliterated~~ a good) member of society.

For a few years thereafter the records are silent. Then in 1791 we read that Gershom was made Deacon of the Church and a year later Justice of the Peace. Both positions he held until his death.* Also in that year he greatly increased his holdings. He bought from Isaac Allen 25 acres in Lot 62 which gave him all of this lot; also all of Lot 61 and "all of Lot 60 except 30 acres off the south end which is owned by Zebal Thomas." As each Lot in

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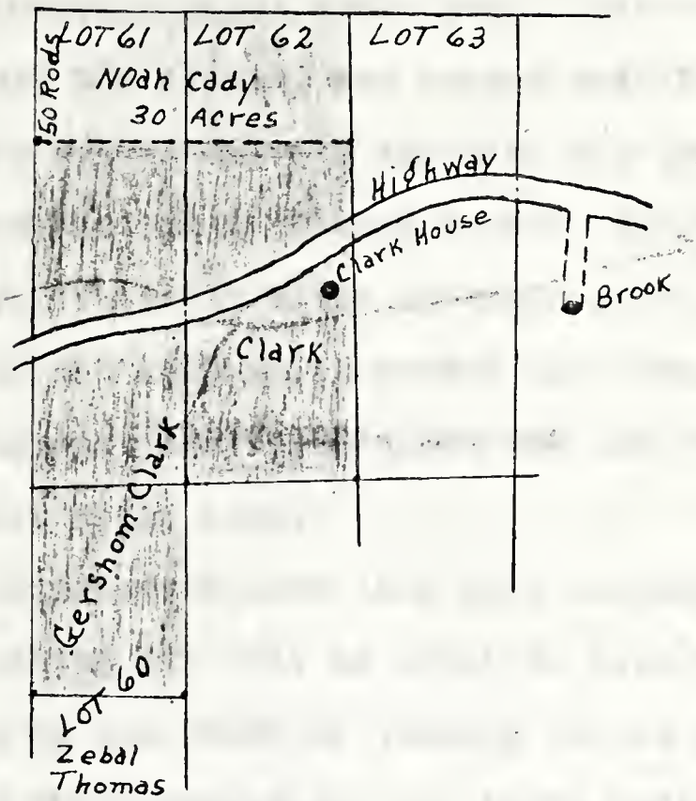
* Weathersfield, Vt. Town Records.

Map and Description

Weathersfield Vermont

Division II

1793



I Gershom Clark of Weathersfield Vt...for 27 pounds lawful money to me pd. by Noah Cady of sd. Weathersfield....do give grant.... unto the sd. Noah Cady...1 certain piece of land in Weathersfield aforsd. viz. about 30 acres in Lots 61 and 62. Bounded as follows- beginning 50 Rods South of the northwest corner of Lot 61 in the 2nd Division and thence North on the West line of sd. Lot to the Northwest corner of said Lot, thence on the North line of Lots 61 and 62 till it comes to the northeast corner of Lot 62, thence on the East line of Lot 62, thence West to the point of starting.

Signed 3 day of June, 1793
Gershom Clark

Stewart Boynton
Levine Clark

Weathersfield Land Records,
Vol. 3, page 2.

the 2nd Division contained 54 acres,* this gave him 132 acres, all lying north, south and west of his house. This cost him "170 pounds lawful money" which was to be paid "in neat cattle and horses in full discharge of 10 notes bearing date August 18th, 1791." The last of these notes was to be paid in 10 years.

This extra acreage meant extra work. His boys could help but little. Harvey, the oldest, was eleven when the new land was bought. The father struggled with the work for two years but each October a note came due and he needed money. In 1793 he sold 30 acres to Noah Cady. These were the northern portion of Lots 61 and 62 and lay north of the road which passed his house. Noah Cady was his neighbor to the east and lived where Mr. and Mrs. Allan Hitchcock now (1940) have their home.

The money he received from this sale helped for a time, but as the wound was taking its toll he could do less and less work. In 1794 he applied to the State of Vermont for an invalid pension. It was granted but the payments did not begin until May 4th, 1794.** Then he received $24.00 yearly, which was later increased to $50.00.

In 1794 came the first separation in the family, Sophia, a two year old daughter, died in July; and in that same year Patty, his second daughter, married John Hulett and went to live in Reading Center. In 1795 Levina, the oldest daughter, married John G. Wheelock, living near the center of the neighboring town of Cavendish. But there were seven children left with Gershom and Levina, Harvey, the oldest, was 15, then Jesse, Azubah, Gershom, Jr., Lucretia, Clarissa and Achsa.

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* Early map of Weathersfield, Vt. by E. W. Butterfield.
** American State Papers Class 9 p. 92. Vermont State Library, Montpelier, Vt.

The town was now well settled; families from Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Hampshire were established in all of its districts. The road leading to Gershom's house, and on to the west, had more houses and farms at that time than did the road now used going from Ascutney to Amsden. To-day one sees old apple orchards and lonely cellar holes on each side of the road where once lived Noah Cady, Gershom Clark, Oliver Diggins and Levi Field. Other neighbors, on the south, were the Burlingames, Parkhursts and Thomas's, and on the cross road to the east lived Squire Mason Hulett, a brother of John Hulett who married Patty Clark, a daughter of Gershom.

In 1802 another daughter left home, Azubah, who married Darius Parkhurst. They settled in Weathersfield quite near the Clark farm. This same year Harvey married Phoebe Chaplin, daughter of Moses and Mary (Platts) Chaplin of Reading, Vermont.* They also settled in Weathersfield near his father and mother, probably just west of the Clark home, for in 1806 we read that Gershom Clark "for love and natural affection which I bear to my beloved son Harvey Clark, do give, grant .... unto him ....30 acres ...in Lots 61 and 60." This land was just west of Gershom's home farm, the house where Harvey and Phoebe Clark lived, being one of those on the old road whose cellar holes are all we see to-day. Three children were born to them in Weathersfield, Lucien in 1803, Guy in 1805 and Hulett in 1808.** Harvey sold this farm to his brother Jesse in 1809 and shortly after moved to Berkshire, Vermont. The Clark family in Weathersfield was getting smaller and smaller. In 1806 Lucretia married Charles Hinckley of Windsor, Vermont,*** and disappears from the records. Gershom Clark, Jr. also married at this

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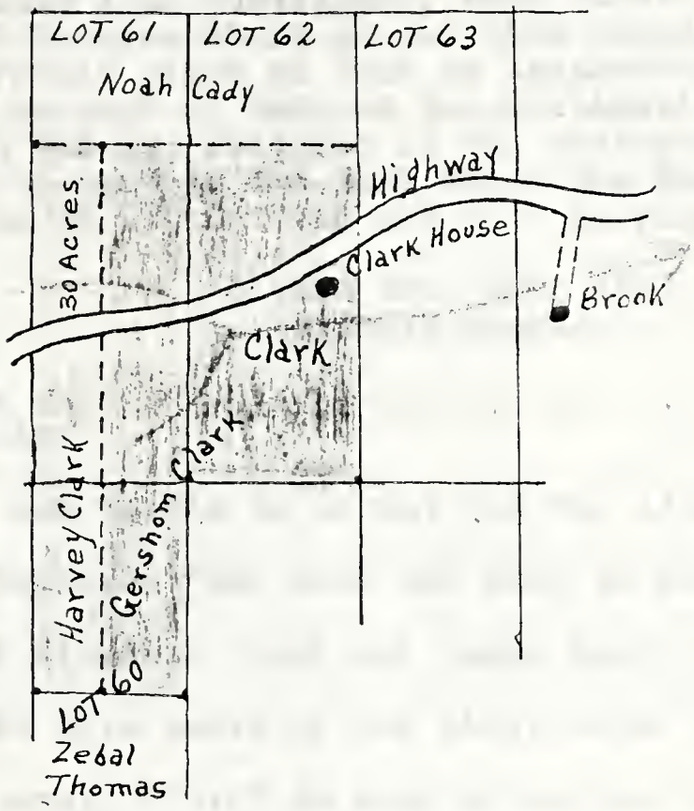
* Reading, Vermont V. S.
** Weathersfield, Vermont V. S.
*** Ibid

Map and Description

Weathersfield Vermont

Division II

1806



I, Gershom Clark of Weathersfield, Vt. for love & natural affection which I have & do bear unto my beloved son Harvey Clark & for other good considerations...do give, grant...unto the sd. Harvey Clark...the following tracts of land in Weathersfield, viz: beginning at the N. W. cor. of Zebal Thomas land on Lot No. 60 in the 2nd Division & thence Easterly on sd. Thomas's North line... thence North until it comes to the land I deeded to Noah Cady on Lot 61 thence West on Noah Cady's South line to the West line of sd. Lot, thence Southerly on the West line of sd. Lot to Zebal Thomas N. W. corner on Lot 60; containing 30 acres, highways excepted.

Signed 3 day of March, 1806.
Gershom Clark

Jona. Whipple
Alpheus Shum -

Weathersfield Land Record
Vol. V page 212.

time, his wife's name was Martha, (family name unknown). There now remained at home only Jesse, Clarissa and Achsa.

About this time a deed appears in the Weathersfield records which is of such interest to all the residents of the Ascutney district that it is given here in abstract.

> "I Stewart Boynton of Weathersfield Vermont do give grant .... unto John Burlingame, Amos Hulett, Thomas Richards and Gershom Clark of the 10th School District one certain piece of land in Weathersfield .... viz; 1/4 of an acre of land on the northwest corner of Lot 15 in the 1st Division in sd. Weathersfield. ... meaning to contain the land where the dead are now buried on sd Lot for the use of a burying place forever.
>
> Signed Dec. 2nd, 1805
> Stewart Boynton"
>
> Witnesses:
> Harvey Clark
> Elijah Winship

Gershom was now unable to do any but the lightest of farm work. In 1811 he conveyed "his home and farm to his son Jesse, the sd Jesse should pay Clarissa Clark and Achsa Clark daughters of the above Gershom within five years of the above date (May 22, 1811), or sooner if they marry, $70.00 to each of the sd. daughters and also the sd. Jesse shall well and truly support Gershom Clark and Levina his wife with meat, drink, lodging, clothing and physic as well in sickness as in health during their natural life, or as long as the sd. Gershom shall permit the sd. Jesse to occupy the farm on which the sd. Gershom and Jesse now live and to provide sd. Gershom and Levina with a good steady horse team whenever they may want them."*

This arrangement lasted for four years, during which Jesse kept the home farm intact. However, in February 1813 he did sell to Oliver Diggins 30 acres on the west side of Lots 60 and 61 but

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* Weathersfield, Vt. Land Records, Vol. VI, p. 111

these 30 acres were not part of the land conveyed to him in 1811 by his father Gershom Clark. They were the 30 acres he bought from his brother Harvey Clark in 1809.

The years 1812-13-14 were ones of great hardship and sorrow to the people of Vermont. In the latter part of 1812 an extremely infectious disease "called spotted fever swept over the Green Mountains, carrying off over 6000 victims in a single year 1813-1814."*

In Weathersfield the disease struck right and left. Hardly a home was spared; neighbors, friends and relatives helped to nurse the sick and bury the dead. Gershom was now 60 years of age, his farm was free and clear, his children, excepting the two youngest, were married and comfortably settled in homes of their own, his family had escaped the epidemic. But a long life of toil superimposed on a body weakened and maimed by war brought his life to an end. He died February 3rd, 1815 and was buried in the Ascutney Cemetery where a plain blue slate stone bears this inscription:

Deacon Gershom Clark
Died
February 3rd 1815
aged 61
years.
"Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord!"

He left no will, but on May 31st 1815 Letters of Administration were granted to Levina Clark; her Bond of $1000. was accepted with Jesse Clark as Surety. Zenas Clark and Amos Hulett, both of Weathersfield, were appointed a committee to take an inventory of the Estate of Gershom Clark late of Weathersfield.**

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* Sketch of Epidemic Diseases in Vermont by Joseph A. Gallup.
** Windsor Co. Vt. Probate Records. County Court House Ludlow, Vt.

Map and Description

For Map see area tinted in red on

Page 11-a

I Jesse Clark of Weathersfield, Vt. for 500. dollars to me paid by Levina Clark of Weathersfield,....do release unto the sd Levina.... a certain piece of land in Weathersfield....for boundaries have reference to Gershom Clarks deed to Jesse Clark of May 22 1811.

Signed 7 day of July 1819.

Jesse Clark.

Witnesses
Benjamin Swan
Darius Parkhurst.

Weathersfield, Vt. Land Records, Vol. 8, page 496.

The work this man did for the town of Weathersfield is largely forgotten. He was Vendue Master in 1782, a thankless task; one chosen to select a Pastor in 1782; chosen to select a site for the first church in 1784; named Surveyor of Highways in 1784; elected Town Clerk from 1784 to 1791; made Deacon of the Church in 1791 and Justice of the Peace in 1792, positions he held until his death, named a member of the School Committee in 1805, and a member of the Ascutney Cemetery Committee in the same year. He cleared meadows and built a house of quiet dignity which still endures (1941). What more can be said of him than that his works in war and peace have lived after him to promote the public good.

When Gershom Clark died his family lost not only a devoted husband and father but also all the lovely home life that had bound those sons and daughters to that home. Jesse Clark was now in possession of the farm. With him were his mother and his two youngest sisters Clarissa and Achsa. They did not remain there long. His mother went restlessly from the home of one married daughter to that of another. The girls were young, just 17 and 19, but they packed their belongings, left the farm, and started life in the city of Albany.

Jesse was a land trader. The records of Weathersfield and of the neighboring town of Reading tell of lands bought one day by "Jesse Clark of Weathersfield" and sold by him a few days later. Little is known of him beyond these grantee and grantor deeds.

Six years slipped by and then his mother, Levina Clark, took the management of the farm back into her own capable hands. It is true that during those six years Jesse had bought and sold other farms in this and in other towns but he had kept the home farm unbroken. Its boundaries in 1819 when his mother bought it back were exactly the same as those of 1811 when he leased the farm from his

father.

The next seven years moved peacefully for Levina. Then came three staggering blows in quick succession. In 1827 Patty Hulett and her large family left Reading and went to Veteran, Chemung Co., N.Y. That good-bye was final. Patty died shortly after reaching Veteran. A few months later Azubah Parkhurst died and four months later Gershom Clark, Jr. died and was buried beside his sister Azubah Parkhurst in the Ascutney Cemetery. Levina was desolate. Of all her large family not one son or daughter was left in Weathersfield. From New York state Levina (Clark) Wheelock hurried back to comfort and sustain that beloved mother. It was a very difficult time for Levina Wheelock and her husband. Their oldest daughter Lavinia had married Alfred Waldo Wilgus of Lansingburg, N.Y. and with the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825 had gone west to Buffalo. Also their oldest sons were settled on prosperous farms at Bowmansville near Buffalo. Their own farm in Greenbush, N. Y. (near Albany) was sold and John and Levina were preparing to join their sons and daughter in Erie Co. N.Y. Then came the news of the serious situation in Weathersfield and John Gleason Wheelock turned his back on the west and travelled east to join his wife and youngest children at the Clark home.

It was a hard time for them all. The mother, Levina Clark, was seventy-five years old and could not be left alone on the farm. The surviving daughters had their own homes and families in far off places. John and Levina Wheelock wished to join their sons on the farm near Buffalo and would take their mother with them. Levi and Clarissa (Clark) Silliman and Achsah Clark had most comfortable homes, the Sillimans at Cohoes, N.Y. and Achsah at Albany. They wanted their mother with them. Also in Weathersfield lived Darius Parkhurst, a loyal and devoted son-in-law. His home was ready to

Abstract of Lease of Clark Premises

from

Levina Clark

to

Richards and Norton.

This indenture made this 16 day of February in the year of our Lord 1832, between Levina Clark widow of Weathersfield Vermont of the one part and Thomas Richards and Franklin Norton of the town, county and State aforsd. of the other part. The sd. Levina Clark hath leased....unto the sd. Richards and Norton... all that land in Weathersfield afsd., it being the same where the sd. Levina Clark now lives, together with all....appurtenances... and in as large and ample a manner as the sd. premises have been heretofore engaged and improved by the sd. Levina Clark or her children....from the first day of March next for and during the sd Levina Clarks natural life....the sd Richards and Norton are to support the sd Levina...she reserving the North East room for herself....which room is to be kept comfortable with a fire at all times when the inclemency of the season requires....Also to keep her clothes and bedding in as good condition as they now are, providing new as the old may be worn out, but she is not to give away or dispose of her clothes to her children or to any other person as long as they can be of use to her....And if the sd. Levina should have friends call to make her a visit she shall have a right to entertain them....If the sd. Levina should wish to live with any of her children then she shall have the right to do so and the sd Richards and Norton are to pay $50. yearly and every year, she reserving the right to return to her room also if she is sick in her room she is to have one of her children to look after her but if she should require extra attendance because of the debility of age then the sd Richards and Norton are not by this covenant bound to bear such extra expense. And the sd Levina Clark do covenant with the sd Richards and Norton that they shall lawfully hold....occupy....and enjoy the sd premises during her natural life.

Signed this 16 day of February 1832
Levina Clark
Thomas Richards
Franklin Norton

Witnesses
John G. Wheelock
Darius Parkhurst.

Weathersfield Town Records Vol. II page 56.

receive her but the gallant lady would have none of them. She wanted her own home where she had been so happy all those long years with Gershom and the children.

They talked to her but the talks lengthened into arguments and the arguments into dignified silence.

> "Mother was she in her daughter's house
> But mistress in her own."*

And mistress she would remain.

Finally in the winter of 1832 John G. Wheelock and Darius Parkhurst negotiated a lease of the farm to Thomas Richards and Franklin Norton. In this lease it was stipulated that the "sd Richards and Norton are to support the sd Levina Clark during her natural life" she reserving the North East room of the farm house for herself. Levina Clark had won the day. She was to remain mistress in her own home even if that home was but the north east room of the old farm cottage.

In 1836 there was a slight change in this arrangement. Thomas Richards sold his interest in the farm to "Franklin Norton and Dolly his wife", who now made it their permanent home. A close relationship existed between the Richards and the Nortons for Dolly Norton was the daughter of Thomas Richards.

At this time (1835/6) Levina Clark applied to the U. S. Government for a pension as "she claimed to be the widow of Gershom Clark who was wounded by a musket shot at Bunker Hill." This paper was witnessed by Thomas Richards and Thomas Hammond. The pension was granted.** The last years of her life were spent at her home with Franklin and Dolly Norton and she was happy there with her memories and associations. She died in the spring of

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* With apologies to Kipling.
** U. S. National Archives, Pension Bureau, Washington, D. C.

1840 and was buried beside her husband in the Ascutney Cemetery. A blue slate stone bears this inscription,

Levina Clark
Widow of
Deacon Gershom Clark
died
May 14, 1840
Aged 86 years
and 11 months.

In June, 1840, the U. S. Government took a census of all soldiers (or their widows) who were then receiving pensions for Revolutionary or other military service. The following list shows a goodly number in Weathersfield, Vt.:*

Priscilla Cheney	aged	87
Jewitt Boynton	"	78
William Nicholls	"	84
Lucretia Stone	"	65
John Mallard	"	77
John Chase	"	79
Stephen Reed	"	86
Lydia Chapin	"	77
Thomas Prentiss	"	81
Sarah Bennett	"	80
John Haskill	"	77
Molly Hatch	"	74
Caleb Litchfield	"	80

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* Census of U. S. Pensioners for Revolutionary or Military Service, June 1840.

The Children of

Gershom and Levina Clark

Levina	born Lebanon, Conn.	Feb. 13, 1777
Patty	born Lebanon, Conn.	Jan. 29, 1779
Harvey	born Lebanon, Conn.	Nov. 23, 1780
Jesse	born Lebanon, Conn.	Sept. 19, 1782
Azubah	born Lebanon, Conn.	July 1, 1784
Gershom	born Lebanon, Conn.	Feb. 9, 1786
Lucretia	born Weathersfield, Vt.	Jan. 20, 1788
Horace	born Weathersfield, Vt.	Nov. 12, 1790
Sophia	born Weathersfield, Vt.	Feb. 21, 1792
Clarissa	born Weathersfield, Vt.	May 15, 1794
Achsah	born Weathersfield, Vt.	Nov. 7, 1796

Sophia, daughter of Gershom and Levina Clark, died July 31, 1794

Lebanon, Conn. Town Records.
Weathersfield, Vt. Town Records.

Levina (Clark) Wheelock.

1777 - 1853

Levina, the daughter of Gershom and Levina Clark, was born in Lebanon, Conn. February 13, 1777 and married John G. Wheelock, son of Deacon Jonathan and Anna (Drury) Wheelock of Cavendish, Vermont.

A sketch of her life and of the lives of some of her descendants will be found in the monograph of Deacon Jonathan Wheelock of Cavendish, Vt.

Patty (Clark) Hulett

1779 - 1828

Patty, daughter of Gershom and Levina Clark was born in Lebanon, Conn. January 29, 1779 and married John Hulett, son of Mason and Elizabeth (Mathewson) Hulett, of Wallingford, Vt.

A sketch of her life and of the lives of some of her descendants will be found in the monograph of Mason Hulett (1737 - 1812) of Walingford, Vt.

Harvey Clark

1780 - 1842

Harvey, the oldest son of Gershom and Levina Clark, was born in Lebanon, Conn., November 23, 1780.* He was six years old when the family moved to Weathersfield, and growing up as he did on that pioneer farm he knew and loved its work, its hardships and its home life. On November 2, 1781 he married Phoebe Chaplin of Reading, Vt.** She was the daughter of Moses and Mary (Platts) Chaplin of that town. Her father was born in West Rowley, Mass. His home in Reading was "the house where Mr. Eastman now lives." (1874)***

The Harvey Clarks made their home in Weathersfield near his father's farm. In 1806 Gershom Clark "for love and natural affection...do give unto my beloved son Harvey 30 acres in Lots 60 and 61." This was the western part of these lots and lay north and south of the old road which passed in front of the Clark home. Three of his children were born in Weathersfield. Then in 1809 Harvey Clark sold his farm to his brother Jesse and moved north to Berkshire, Vt. where he bought a large farm and soon became one of Berkshire's prosperous and influential citizens. He was Town Clerk for many years and Town Representative for 1815, 1816 and 1818. In Hemingway's History of Franklin County we read, "Harvey Clark perhaps more than any other citizen was instrumental in the early upbuilding of Berkshire." He died there May 28, 1842, and was buried in the cemetery near the center of the town.

His widow and her youngest son Harvey remained on the home

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* Lebanon, Conn. Town Records
** Reading, Vt.
*** History of Reading, Vt. by G. Davis

farm. Phoebe Clark died there September 4, 1857 and was buried in the Berkshire cemetery beside her husband. The inscriptions on their tombstones read:

Harvey Clark Esq.	Phoebe Clark
died	died
May 28, 1842	September 4, 1857
In the 62 year of	Aged 75 years
his age	9 months 23 days

Descendants of Harvey and Phoebe Clark bearing the Clark name still live on the original Clark farm in Berkshire. The dignified old homestead, two storied, white with green shutters, stands beside the hill road. It faces south with large barns in the rear and well farmed fields and pastures all around.

Children born to Harvey and Phoebe Clark were:

Lucien	born Weathersfield, Vt. July 2, 1803
Guy	born Weathersfield, Vt. May 24, 1805
Hulett	born Weathersfield, Vt. Apr. 23, 1808*
Laura	born Berkshire, Vt. Dec. 16, 1810
Levina	born Berkshire, Vt. Apr. 4, 1816
Harvey	born Berkshire, Vt. Apr. 22, 1820**

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* Weathersfield, Vt. Town Records
** Berkshire, Vt. Town Records

Guy Clark

1805 -

Guy, the son of Harvey and Phoebe Clark, married Anna -----
Their children were:*

Mary	born Berkshire, Vt. 1830	
Anthon(?)	born Berkshire, Vt. 1836	(child's name illegible in record)
Guy	born Berkshire, Vt. 1840	
Adelia	born Berkshire, Vt. 1845	

Laura Clark

1810 -

Laura, the daughter of Harvey and Phoebe Clark, married Samuel Stanhope. Their children were:**

Sophia	born Berkshire, Vt. 1831
Spencer	born Berkshire, Vt. 1833
Luthera	born Berkshire, Vt. 1837
Mary P.	born Berkshire, Vt. 1848

Harvey Clark, Jr.

1820 -

Harvey, the son of Harvey and Phoebe Clark married Sarah
-------***

*

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* U. S. National Archives Pension Bureau, Washington, D. C.
** Ibid
*** Ibid

Jesse Clark

1782 - 18

Jesse the son of Gershom and Levina Clark was born in Lebanon, Conn. Sept. 19, 1782. He Lived in Weathersfield, Vt. Tradition in the town says that he was married to Dorothy Cheney, but so far no record of this marriage has been found. His name appears in the U. S. Census of 1820 as a resident of Weathersfield, then he disappears from the town and state records.

Azubah (Clark) Parkhurst

1784 - 1828

Azubah the daughter of Gershom and Levina Clark was born in Lebanon, Conn. July 1, 1784.* She was two years old when the family moved to Weathersfield but as she spent all the rest of her life in that town we may truly call her a Vermonter. On November 11, 1802 she married Darius Parkhurst in Weathersfield.** He was the son of Darius Parkhurst of Pomfret, Conn. and a direct descendant of George Parkhurst who came to America in 1635 in the ship "Plain Joan". This first George Parkhurst settled in Watertown, Mass.*** His descendants moved into Connecticut early in the 18th Century, as we find Timothy Parkhurst in Killingly in 1717, and a few years later John Parkhurst in Pomfret where he married Abigail Sabine May 15, 1722.**** John and Abigail were the grandparents of Darius Parkhurst who came to Weathersfield - married Azubah Clark

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* Lebanon, Conn. Town Records
** Weathersfield, Vt. Town Records
*** Watertown, Mass. Town Records
**** N. E. Hist. and Genealogical Record, Vols. 67 and 73, p. 37 and 105; also Pomfret, Conn. Cemetery Inscriptions.

and soon became one of the leading younger men of the town.

Their home was not far from her father's home farm. Of their eight children five died young. Azubah Parkhurst died February 23, 1828* and was buried beside her five children in the Ascutney Cemetery. A year later "Darius Parkhurst of Weathersfield and Martha Clark were married at Windsor, Vt. April 2, 1829 by Amos Hulett J.P.** This Martha Clark was the widow of Gershom Clark, Jr. She died in Weathersfield May 18, 1840 and was buried beside her first husband.

Children born to Darius and Azubah (Clark) Parkhurst:

Betheul	born	Weathersfield,	Vt.	July 31, 1803	No further trace
Orson) twins Darius)	"	"	"	Dec. 19, 1804	
Simon Sabine	"	"	"	Apr. 1, 1809	
Darius	"	"	"	July 31, 1817	
Esther	"	"	"	Aug. 22, 1820	
Horace	"	"	"	May 19, 1822	
John	"	"	"	Oct. 23, 1823	

Darius son of	Darius	and	Azubah	Parkhurst	died	Mar. 13, 1808	aged	4 yrs.
Simon Sabine	"	"	"	"	"	" Feb. 17, 1810	"	1 yr.
Esther daughter	"	"	"	"	"	" Sept. 29, 1823	"	3 "
Horace son of	"	"	"	"	"	" Mar. 19, 1823	"	10 Mo.
John	"	"	"	"	"	" Feb. 25, 1825	"	1 yr. 4 mo.

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* Ascutney, Vt. Cemetery Inscriptions
** Windsor, Vt. Town Records

Weathersfield, Vt. V. S.

Azubah (Clark) Parkhurst - Continued

In 1841/2 Orson and Rosetta (Graves) Parkhurst with their three children Edwin, George and John left Weathersfield for a new home in Cohoes, N.Y. His younger brother Darius, Jr. soon joined him there. Cohoes was the home of their Aunt Clarissa (Clark) Silliman whose husband was one of the most influential men of the city at that time.

The brothers gave up farming and started a factory for making bedsteads. Their first venture was in a small house but the business grew so rapidly they soon moved into larger quarters. All styles of beds were made from the old fashioned "spool bed" to the more ornate ones then in demand. Within a few years the factory was sending out 150 beds per week.*

The brothers and their families are listed in the U. S. Census of 1850 as residents of Cohoes, then Darius disappears from the records. Orson and his wife Rosetta continued in Cohoes until 1870. Later they returned to Weathersfield. They died there and were buried in the Ascutney Cemetery near his mother Azubah (Clark) Parkhurst.**

No record has been found of Darius Parkhurst Sr. after 1840.

Orson Parkhurst married Rosetta Graves; she was born in New Hampshire. The children born to Orson and Rosetta Parkhurst were:

Edwin	Born in Vermont in 1834.	
George	" " " " 1836	no further record.
John	" " " " 1841	" " " ***

Edwin Parkhurst settled in Albany, N.Y.****

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* Hist. of Cohoes by G. A. Masten.
** Ascutney, Vt. Cemetery Records.
*** U. S. National Archives, Pension Bureau, Washington, D. C.
**** American Ancestry, Vol. 1.

Gershom Clark Jr.

1786 - 1828

Gershom the son of Gershom and Levina Clark was born in Lebanon, Conn. Feb. 9, 1786. Very little is known of him. He was married and the name of his wife was Martha but her family name is not recorded in Weathersfield nor in Montpelier. He died June 23, 1828 and was buried in the Ascutney Cemetery. His widow married Darius Parkhurst in Windsor, Vt. April 2, 1829. She died May 18, 1840 and was buried beside her first husband. The inscriptions on their adjoining tombstones read:

Gershom Clark, Jr.	Martha Parkhurst
Died	formerly wife of
June 23, 1828	Gershom Clark Jr.
Aged 41 years.	Died
	May 18, 1840
	Aged 54 years.

Lucretia the daughter of Gershom and Levina Clark was born in Weathersfield, Vt. Jan. 20, 1788 and married Charles Hinckley (termed in the record as of Windsor) Sept. 4, 1808. No further record has been found of this family.

Horace the son of Gershom and Levina Clark was born in Weathersfield, Vt. Nov. 12, 1790. He is supposed to have died young.

Sophia, daughter of Gershom and Levina Clark, was born in Weathersfield, Vt. Feb. 21, 1792 and died July 31, 1794.

Clarissa (Clark) Silliman

1794 - ----

Clarissa, daughter of Gershom and Levina Clark, was born in Weathersfield, Vt. May 15, 1794.* Shortly after the death of her father, in 1813, she left Weathersfield and with her youngest sister, Achsah, settled in Albany, N. Y. There in 1816 she married Levi Silliman. A son, Horace Clark Silliman, was born there June 23, 1817, and baptized in the Presbyterian Church Sept. 22, 1819.**

Levi Silliman's ancestors came to America from Holland in the latter part of the 17th Century. They first made their home in Fairfield, Conn. in the district that is still called Holland Hill, where Levi was born in 1786. He left Fairfield in 1810 and moved to Albany, N. Y. where he soon became associated with

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Weathersfield, Vermont Town Records.
* Weathersfield, Vt. V. S.
** Records of the Presbyterian Church of Albany, N.Y. by Vosburg.

Jonathan Lyman, a prominent builder of that city. Within a few years he was also superintendent of the Townsend Furnace Company but transferred his activities to Cohoes, N.Y. where he became a member of the Rathbone and Silliman Furnace Works. In 1835 he formed a partnership with Jonas Simmons and under the name Simmons and Silliman built and operated the Cohoes Axe Factory that was so long and so favorably known all through that section of the country.

Levi and Clarissa Silliman were prominent in the group that established the Presbyterian Church in Cohoes of which he was the first Deacon. He died June 29, 1844 at the age of 59, "leaving a widow, Clarissa, and son Horace B. Silliman, four other children having previously died."*

Horace B. Silliman was prominent in the religious and civic life of the City of Cohoes. He had large investments in a drug company, in a paint and paper store and also in an insurance company. He was superintendent of the Presbyterian Sunday School and after the death of his mother built a Presbyterian church in memory of his parents. He married but left no children, the bulk of his estate going to the Seminary at Northfield, Mass.

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* History of Cohoes, N. Y. by A. H. Masten, p. 267.

Achsah (Clark) Bassett

1796 - ----

Achsah, daughter of Gersom and Levina Clark, was born in Weathersfield, Vermont, November 7, 1796.* With her sister Clarissa she left Vermont shortly after the death of their father in 1813 and settled in Albany near their oldest sister, Levina Wheelock. This change from the sheltered life on the Weathersfield farm needed courage and skill. She had both. She was an expert needlewoman and soon became well and favorably known in Albany as a "seamstress." She joined the Presbyterian church in Albany in 1819 and in that same church, on August 14, 1833, married "Nathaniel B. Bassett of Schenectady." Her brother-in-law, Levi Silliman, was one of the witnesses of that ceremony. The church record gives Schenectady as the home of Mr. Bassett but the records of that city give a Nehemiah B. Bassett of those years and not Nathaniel B. Bassett. Which of the given names is the true one has not as yet been ascertained. The family is listed in the U. S. Census of 1840 as residents of Schenectady but the census of 1850 records only Achsah Bassett born in Vermont, aged 54, and Sarah Bassett born in New York, aged 14. We have no further record of this family.

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* Weathersfield, Vt. Town Records.

After 1840 the Clark name, as it refers to the family of Deacon Gershom Clark, is seen no more on the Weathersfield records, but the Clark home is still standing and the following deeds will bring the genealogy of that ancient house down from 1840, when Levina Clark died, to 1940 and the present owners.

If we check back to Gershom Clark's original purchases (1781-1791) we find that he owned Lots 61 and 62 and 25 acres in Lot 60. The family held all of this land, excepting a mountain woodlot, until 1813 when they sold 30 acres to Oliver Diggins. Those 30 acres were a bite out of the western part of Lots 60 and 61. Franklin Norton bought back the 30 acres in 1840 and in so doing brought back the farm to its original boundaries.

The Clark home farm in 1840 became the Norton farm where Franklin and Dolly Norton lived until 1854. It was then conveyed to William O. Chapin of Sunapee, N. H.

> "We, Franklin Norton and Dolly Norton his wife, of Weathersfield, Vt.....for $2500. paid to our full satisfaction by William O. Chapin of Newport, N. H. ....do give....unto the sd Chapin....a certain piece of land in Weathersfield, Vt....containing 145 acres more or less....it being the farm on which we now live, it being the same and all the land which was deeded to me the sd Franklin Norton by Thomas Richards by his two deeds, the first bearing date Sept. 6, 1836 and the second bearing date Nov. 7, 1840.
>
> Signed Dec. 1, 1854
> Franklin Norton
> Dolly Norton
>
> N.B.Roundy, J.P.
> Amanda E. Norton.

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* Weathersfield, Vt. Land Records, Vol. 15, p. 164

William O. Chapin and his wife Lucina took possession of the farm April 1, 1855. The following year they bought an additional 15 acres "from Elijah Whitmore", which in all gave them 160 acres. They held this for eight years and then sold it to Lucy A. Kimball.*

> We, William O. Chapin and Lucina Chapin wife of sd. William of Weathersfield, Vt.....for $2600. paid to our full satisfaction by Lucy A. Kimball of Weathersfield....do give....unto the sd Lucy....a certain piece of land in Weathersfield containing 160 acres.
>
> Signed the 19 day of March 1863.
>
> William O. Chapin
> Lucina Chapin
>
> Wm. Pingree
> Mary Pingree

Five years passed and the farm again changed owners. This time 75 acres south of the highway was sold to Minot Wright and 90 acres north of the road to George A. Weston.**

> We, Amos M. Kimball and Lucy A. Kimball his wife... of Weathersfield, Vt....For $2000. paid to our full satisfaction by Minot Wright of Weathersfield..Vt... do give....unto the sd. Minot Wright....one certain piece of land in Weathersfield...Vt....it being all that part of our home farm which was deeded to sd. Lucy A. Kimball by William O. Chapin and Lucina Chapin, March 19, 1863 which lies south of the highway leading from Samuel Kimball's to Roswell Notts, containing 75 acres,
>
> Signed 28 of Nov. 1869
>
> Amos M. Kimball
> Lucy A. Kimball
>
> Hysen Henry
> Wm. M. Pingree

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* Weathersfield, Vt. Land Records, Vol. 16 p. 442
** " " " " Vol. 17 p. 514.

We, Amos M. Kimball and Lucy A. Kimball wife of sd. Amos* of Weathersfield...Vt.....for $1400.. paid to our full satisfaction by George A. Weston of Weathersfield....do give....unto the sd. George A. Weston.i..one certain piece of land in Weathersfield.....namely, all that part of our home farm which was deeded to the sd. Lucy A. Kimball by William O. Chapin and Lucina Chapin wife of sd. William, March 19, 1863, which lies north of the highway leading from Samuel Kimballs to Roswell Notts containing 90 acres,

signed 28 of Nov. 1868
Amos M. Kimball
Lucy A. Kimball

Hysen Henry
Wm. M. Pingree

Minot Wright held the property south of the highway for the short space of four months and then parted with the old home and 12 acres to DeWitt C. Thrasher.**

Minot Wright of Weathersfield, Vt....for $750. paid to my full satisfaction by DeWitt C. Thrasher ....do give....unto the sd. DeWitt C. Thrasher.... one certain piece of land in Weathersfield....on the southerly side of the highway leading from Roswell Notts to Samuel Kimball....containing 12 acres, reserving one of the barns on the premises to be moved off in a reasonable time,

signed 19 day of March, 1869
Minot Wright

Wm. M. Pingree
H. H. Spafford

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* Weathersfield, Vt. Land Records, Vol. 17, p. 511
** " " " " Vol. 17, p. 527

DeWitt C. Thrasher held the place for 15 months and then sold the house and surrounding acres south of the highway to Hermione M. Burt.*

> I, DeWitt C. Thrasher of Weathersfield, Vt....for $900. to me paid to my full satisfaction by Hermione M. Burt of Claremont, N. H....do give....unto the sd. Hermione M. Burt....one certain piece of land in Weathersfield, Vt....it being the same and all the land conveyed to me by Minot Wright by his deed to me executed on the 19 day of March 1869 containing 12 acres, meaning not to convey the right of the water which is now brought from George Weatons land in lead pipes to the dwelling house on sd. premises, also reserving the middle barn situated on sd. premises to be moved off in a reasonable time.
>
> signed 25 of June, 1870
>
> DeWitt C. Thrasher.
>
> Walter Newell
> Avis Newell.

For seventy years the old homestead has remained in the same family. The present owner (1941), Mr. Harold B. Carruth, is a grandson of Mrs. Hermione M. Burt.

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* Weathersfield, Vt. Land Records Vol. 19, p. 149.